

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS IWC PE

SUBJ: GOP EFFORTS TO AVOID NEGATIVE ATTENTION IN TOKYO IWC
MEETING

REF: LIMA 8809

1. SUMMARY: GOP HOPES THAT MAKING RECENT ACTIONS KNOWN TO
THE USG WILL FORESTALL INTRODUCTION OF AGENDA ITEMS DIRECTED
AT PERU AND CHILE IN THE DECEMBER 6 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF A NOVEMBER 25 CALL ON ANOTHER
SUBJECT ALVARO DE SOTO (DIRECTOR, MARINE SOVEREIGNTY, MOFA)
INFORMED EMBOFF THAT PERU HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEND AN
OBSERVER TO THE UPCOMING SPECIAL MEETING OF THE IWC IN
TOKYO AND INTENDED TO DO SO. AMONG THE PREPARATORY
DOCUMENTS DE SOTO HAD RECEIVED WERE USG DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
FOR AGENDA ITEMS 13 (C) 1, 2, AND 3. THESE DRAFTS DEAL
WITH BRYDE'S, SPERM, AND SEI WHALES RESPECTIVELY. THE
FIRST RESOLVES THAT THE 1978 CATCH OF BRYDE'S WHALES NOT
EXCEED THE PRESENT LEVEL AND REQUESTS THE RESOLUTION BE
FORWARDED TO THE GOP. THE SECOND RESOLVES THAT NO SPERM
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WHALES BE TAKEN FROM THE PRESCRIBED PROTECTION STOCK AND
REQUESTS THE RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE GOP AND
GOC. THE THIRD RESOLVES THAT NO MORE THAN 353 SEI
WHALES BE TAKEN FROM THE PRESCRIBED AREA AND THAT THE
RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE GOP AND GOC.

3. DE SOTO ARGUED THAT THESE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS DO NOT

SEEM TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHANGING SITUATION AND SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE IWC MEETING AT CANBERRA. HE ARGUED THAT SUCH RESOLUTIONS WHICH APPEAR TO SINGLE OUT PERU ARE NOT HELPFUL AT A TIME WHEN THE GOP IS BEGINNING TO MOVE IN A DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE USG. IN PARTICULAR DE SOTO CITED PERU'S ACTIONS IN THE RECENT SOUTH PACIFIC PERMANENT COMMISSION HELD IN SANTIAGO. IN ADDITION TO DISPLAYING A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD IWC MEMBERSHIP PERU HAD TAKEN TWO INITIATIVES DURING THE SPPC MEETING. THE FIRST WOULD EXPAND SPPC REGULATIONS BEYOND THE TERMS OF THE IWC TO FIX SPECIFIC QUOTAS FOR THE SPPC COUNTRIES. THE SECOND WOULD LIMIT THE JOINT PERU-CHILEAN SPERM WHALE CATCH TO A MAXIMUM OF 900. DE SOTO SAID THE GOC RESPONSE WAS THAT IT WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO AGREE FORMALLY TO THESE PROPOSALS.

4. DE SOTO ALSO ADVISED THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS (PRESUMABLY BEFORE THE TOKYO MEETING) THE GOP WILL ANNOUNCE A UNILATERAL LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF SPERM WHALES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN. SIMILAR ACTION ON THE OTHER TWO SPECIES IS EXPECTED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. DE SOTO DID NOT GIVE FIGURES BUT SAID THE LIMITS WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THE "TOOTHLESS" ONE ADOPTED BY CHILE. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS SETTING A MAXIMUM OF 500 UNITS, WITH NO DIFFERENTIATION AMONG THE SPECIES. HE SAID THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIGURE REPRESENTED A CATCH ROUGHLY TWICE THE CAPACITY OF THE PREVENT CHILEAN FLEET TO HANDLE.

5. THE PERUVIAN OBSERVER AT THE TOKYO MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BE ABRAM RAMIREZ LITUNA, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, WHO ATTENDED THE CANBERRA IWC MEETING IN OBSERVER STATUS.

6. DE SOTO DID NOT MAKE A SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS BE WITHDRAWN, BUT INDICATED THE FOREGOING WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED BY THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY TO THE DEPARTMENT. EMBOFF DID NOT OFFER ANY JUDGMENT OF WHAT EFFECT THESE DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT HAVE, BUT OBSERVED THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY DRAWN UP MONTHS EARLIER AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, WASHINGTON PROBABLY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED YET OF THE EVENTS OF THE SANTIAGO MEETING. SHLAUDEMAM

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